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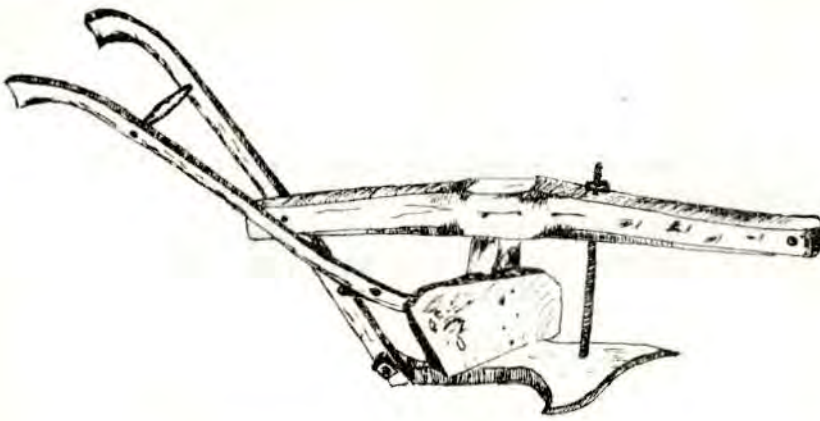
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Folk Studies

Society

Newsletter



Vol. 3. No. 1

Western Kentucky University

September, 1975

FACULTY CHANGES

Dr. Mary W. Clarke announced her retirement from teaching in the Folk Studies Program at Western in May, and a reception was held in her honor. Although her retirement was effective June 30th, Dr. Clarke will continue to do research and writing in the field of folklore.

Dr. Burt Feintuch was chosen from more than twenty applicants to fill the vacancy left by Dr. Clarke's departure. A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Feintuch was enrolled in the Folklore and Folklife Program at the University of Pennsylvania and recently completed his doctoral dissertation on ethnoscientific and communications theory entitled, A Study of Folkloristic Performance: Pop Hafler, Fiddler. This semester he teaches classes in introductory folklore, dialect and communications, and traditional American song and music. We welcome Burt and his wife, Maxene.

DEPARTMENTAL EVENTS

Dr. Bruce Buckley, Dr. Ron Roberts, and eighteen students from the Cooperstown Graduate Program visited the WKU Center for Intercultural and Folk Studies, The Kentucky Museum, and the Folklore and Folklife Archives in May. Patty and Bruce MacLeish hosted a party in their honor.

Dr. Lynwood Montell's new book, Ghosts Along the Cumberland, is published by the University of Tennessee Press. The book examines death omens, death beliefs, and the ghostlore of the Eastern Pennyroyal in Kentucky.

Mike Morse, photographer for the book, completed his M.A. in Folk Studies and now teaches in the Mass Communications Department at Western.

Over forty undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members took part in a Folk Studies field trip September 12th and 13th. They travelled to Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee and to Burkesville, Kentucky to study the cultural landscape, material culture, and music of the region.

New undergraduate courses for the spring semester are Women in Folklore, to be taught by Cam Collins, Bluegrass Music, which will be taught by Burt Feintuch, and Folk Medicine, to be taught by Ken Clarke. It is possible that a course in Oral History will also be offered by Lynwood Montell.

GRADUATE STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Linda White was recently selected as the State Folklorist of Tennessee. As one of the first state folklorists in the country, Linda will represent both the state of Tennessee and the discipline of folklore. She will develop a state folklore archive and coordinate other folkloristic activities in the state. Linda can be contacted at the Tennessee Arts Commission, 222 Capitol Hill Building, 7th and Union Streets, Nashville, Tennessee 37219.

Pege Kohn worked on a seven-week urban oral history project with the Bureau of Cultural Affairs of the city of Albany, New York. She recently accepted a position in the Appalachian Museum at Berea College in Kentucky. She will direct an audio-visual folklore project funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Former graduate student Annelen Archbold is currently the editor of Folklore Forum, published at Indiana University. Mary Helen Weldy is Western's corresponding editor to the Forum. Send any articles or communications to her: Apt. C, 701 Cabell Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42101. Subscriptions to the Folklore Forum are five dollars per year for students.

David Taylor is a contributing editor for the "Dulcimer Players News," a relatively new publication which focuses on dulcimers and fretless banjos, and their builders and players. Articles or inquiries should be sent to David at: Apt. 2, 1715 Canton Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42101. Subscriptions to the "Dulcimer Players News" are four dollars per year.

Steve Moorman is teaching an introductory folklore class at Georgia State University this fall.

Mike Holmes was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the National Folk Festival Association and will serve a three-year term in this capacity.

During the summer, Judi Sadewasser worked with the staff of the Kentucky Library and Gene Umberger worked with the staff of the Kentucky Museum.

This summer, Ruby Ruffy transcribed oral history tapes of the Hensley Settlement for the Cumberland Gap National Park. These tapes are on deposit in the Western Kentucky Folklore and Folklife Archives. Susan Anderson is currently transcribing the tapes in this collection.

Steve Poyser has begun work on his doctorate in folklore at Indiana University. Roger Beatty was accepted by Indiana University and Mike Stoner was accepted by the University of Pennsylvania. Both Roger and Mike will begin doctoral work in folklore in January.

Two graduate students completed their theses in folklore and graduated in August. Carol Parker compiled a folk history of the Cedar Grove Community in Logan County, Kentucky. Hank Willett investigated the Afro-American chant sermon found in Rappahannock County, Virginia.

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

We welcome the following persons into the Folk Studies Program as graduate students. Each student's undergraduate major, university, and special interests in folklore are listed below.

Tom J. Ayres
Literature
Stockton State College
Pomona, N.J.
Oral narratives of Northeast
United States and British Isles

David M. Axler
Electrical Engineering
M.A. Computer Science
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.
Folklore of Folklorists,
computer applications of
folklore

Marney Glancy
Upper Level Education
University of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, Wis.
Children's folklore, folklore
as indicator of culture

Patrick N. Johnson
History and Government
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Ky.
Material culture, Appalachian
folklore

Sara J. McNulty
Elementary Education
Kentucky Wesleyan College
Owensboro, Ky.

Vicky L. Middleswarth
English
Allegheny College
Meadville, Pa.
Children's folklore, tall tale

Mariann Moore
Business and English
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Ky.

Kate H. Parker
English
University of Richmond
Richmond, Va.
Rituals, North American Indians

Pamela Rogers
Anthropology
Beloit College
Beloit, Wis.
Material culture, folk music

A. Clayton Schofield
English
University of Maryland
College Park, Md.
Tales, folk medicine

Barbara A. Taylor
Sociology
C.W. Post College
Brookville, N.Y.
Music of British Isles, folk
medicine

David L. Taylor
 Spanish
 Muskingum College
 New Concord, Ohio
 Material culture, hammered dulcimer

J. Vaughan Webb
 English
 University of Virginia
 Charlottesville, Va.
 Folk architecture, jokes, music

Linda Wilson
 English
 Campbellsville College
 Campbellsville, Ky.

Nancy S. Ziglar
 Music
 University of South Carolina
 Columbia, S.C.
 Ballads, cookery, women

On August 25, a get-acquainted party for new and old graduate students and faculty was held at the home of Mary Helen Weldy.

FOLK STUDIES SOCIETY

An organizational meeting of the WKU Folk Studies Society was held August 29th. Suggestions and proposals concerning increased graduate and undergraduate activity in the society were discussed. Committees were set up to handle programs, arrangements, publicity, fieldtrips, liasons, and the newsletter. Cam Collins serves as faculty advisor to the Society and meets periodically with the committee chairpersons.

A second meeting of the Folk Studies Society was held September 9th. Mike Branstetter, an instructor in Media Services at WKU, spoke about Western's videotape library and assistance available to folklore students who might want to make videotape programs.

On October 14th, Nancy Miller, Director of the Communications Center in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, will speak to Society members about the Southern Video Network and its group affiliates. The Network produces videotapes on the folk arts and folklore indigenous to this region.

Plans are also underway for a monthly series of folklore films to be sponsored by the Folk Studies Society. Semester dues for Society members are two dollars. This money will be used to meet expenses of those speakers who will address the society throughout the year.

NOTICES

The M.A. comprehensive written examination will be given on the second Wednesday in October, April, and July.

The Graduate Council recently approved a motion that twelve semester hours of graduate work from another university will be accepted as transferable toward Western's graduate degrees.

A new University policy states that incomplete grades become automatic F's one year from the end of the semester in which the incomplete grade was incurred. Since this policy applies to thesis credit, old graduate students should contact Dr. Montell immediately.

Dr. Feintuch, graduate assistant coordinator, has stated that all graduate assistants will be expected to provide him with bi-weekly written reports, including a statement of the number of hours worked and a brief summary of activities during those hours. An assistantship imposes an obligation and the entire faculty is concerned that the obligation is met.

October 1, 1975 is the deadline for applications for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts' Jazz/Folk/Ethnic Music Program. The purpose of the program is to create an atmosphere in which musical arts will thrive through artistic, educational, and archival programs. For more information, check the bulletin board or contact Music Program, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C. 20506. Either individuals or organizations may apply.

The National Endowment for the Arts has announced its next Work Experience Internship Program, which will begin in February of 1976. The thirteen-week program acquaints the participants with operations of the Endowment and gives them an overview of art activities in the country. One internship is in the Folk Arts. The deadline for application is November 21, 1975. For more information see Dr. Montell or write Ms. Kathleen Bannon, Intern Program Officer, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C. 20506.

Subscriptions to the Folklore Feminists Communication may be obtained by writing to P.O. Box 24053, LSU Station, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803. More information about the FFC may be obtained from Cam Collins.

FALL MEETINGS

The Tennessee Folklore Society will hold its annual fall meeting Friday, October 31st, and Saturday, November 1st, at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. Friday evening will be devoted to music and entertainment and Saturday to papers and business.

On Saturday, November 8th, the Virginia Folklore Society will hold its annual meeting at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville.

The South Atlantic Modern Language Association will hold its fall meeting in Atlanta, Georgia from Thursday, November 6th through Saturday, November 8th. One session will be devoted to folklore.

Cape May, New Jersey is the setting for the Pioneer America Society meeting from October 3rd to the 5th.

The American Folklore Society will hold its annual meeting from October 23rd to the 26th at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, Louisiana. Student room rates will be available. Rides to New Orleans and room reservations will be handled by the Arrangements Committee of the Folk Studies Society.

AFS membership for students is five dollars per year. For membership, write the American Folklore Society, 1703 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

THIS NEWSLETTER

Comments, queries, and suggestions concerning this newsletter should be sent to Ruby Rufty, Editor, Folk Studies Society Newsletter, Center for Intercultural and Folk Studies, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

Pam Rogers and Gene Umberger will serve on the newsletter committee and will assist with format, proof-reading and mailing.

Cam Collins, faculty advisor, encourages an exchange of newsletters with other folklore programs and associations.

Folk Studies Society
Center for Intercultural and Folk Studies
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, KY 42101

DR. J. CRAWFORD CROWE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY